



**Northgate Community Center and Park
PAT Meeting #2
September 22, 2003
Meeting Notes**

PAT Members Present: Sue Geving, Frank Lufkin, Barbara Maxwell, Joel Tufel, William Lowe, LeAnne Hendrix, John Cash

PAT Members Not Present: Marilyn Firlotte, Shawn Olesen, Michelle Rupp, Velva Maye, Jeanne Hayden

Audience Present: Jan Brucker

Staff Present: Erin Devoto, Director of Planning & Development Division for Parks; Maureen A. O'Neill, NE Parks and Recreation Manager; Jane Appling, Seattle Public Library staff; Tim Motzer Parks Project Manager; Joelle Ligon, Public Relations Specialist; Carolyn Law, Mayor's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs; Marcia Iwasaki, Mayor's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs

7 p.m. Welcome

- Tim welcomed all returning members, and introduced several new members of the team, including John Cash, William Lowe and LeAnne Hendrix.
- Each member introduced themselves to the group.
- Tim reviewed the meeting objectives.

7:10 p.m. Comments from Visitors

- There was one visitor at the meeting – Jan Brucker. Jan introduced herself. While Jan chose not to make comments at the beginning of the PAT meeting, she made several suggestions at the end for PAT members to consider as they formulate their recommendations.

7:11 p.m. Artist (1% For Art)

- Carolyn explained that she wrote the Arts Plan for the Community Center Levy Program. Her goal was to bring arts into partnership with the community center and the community. While the plan addresses community centers as a whole, it also is flexible enough to speak to the individual needs of the various projects, she said.

- Research for the Arts Plan was comprised of looking at the past two Parks Levys and gleaning information about what worked and what didn't. She said that the plan sought to take the best of the past while looking toward the future. She encouraged PAT members to read the Arts Plan.
- The Library and Community Center each have an artist assigned for 1% For Art. The two artists will communicate and stay in touch with each other to gain the maximum benefit from their work together.
- Carolyn explained the Emerging Public Artist Roster, from which Nikki McClure (the 1% For Art Artist for the community center) was chosen. The Office received 160 applications. Of those, 26 artists were selected to be on the roster. Further, each artist must compete for individual project selection. A panel of community members and City staff comprised the selection team for the Northgate artists. Five artists were selected to interview for the Northgate project, a higher number than is normally interviewed.
- Nikki will be at the Sept. 29, 2003 Northgate PAT meeting.
- Nikki will begin work this week by making a site tour and meeting with architects the Miller-Hull Partnership. Nikki will begin to work with Dana Lynn Lewis, the 1% For Art artist for the Library project. Nikki will begin by developing a group of ideas. She'll bring those ideas to the PAT and to the community. One of these will be chosen as the preferred plan to move forward with. After there is a general consensus about which plan to pursue, Nikki will create a plan and fill in the details. Her schedule will follow closely the construction and design of the building.
- PAT members suggested Nikki see the Ravenna/Eckstein Community Center art. The group seemed to support the idea that the art be a beacon that calls citizens in to the site – something that could easily be seen from the street. There seemed to be general consensus that the art set the tone and the character of the place.

7:37 p.m. Side Discussion on PAT input/meeting structure

- Tim explained the process for Meeting Notes: the minutes will not be verbatim, but points from the meeting. Joelle will take notes during the meeting and then

make sure that they are posted on the web and that each individual member gets a copy of the minutes.

- PAT members wanted to better understand how their comments would be presented to the architects. Some members of the PAT seemed to feel that many of the key decisions had already been made.
- A general discussion among PAT members resulted in an agreement that they would like to speak to the architect with one voice, after having reached a general consensus on issues.
- Parks staff concurred that the most efficient way to get information presented succinctly to the architects would be for the group to identify key issues that they would like addressed. That information would then be compiled in the form of meeting notes and presented to the designers.
- At least one PAT member thought that consensus-based input didn't provide an opportunity for candid observations and spontaneous input.
- As a result of this discussion, the group decided to have 10 minutes of at-large discussion at the beginning of the meeting. This time will be dedicated to addressing issues that come up during the week as the PAT members communicate with each other via e-mail. The next meeting will have this time build in to the agenda.
- At least one PAT member wants to discuss the potential for having parking around the back of the site.

7:50 p.m. Design Programs

- In a general discussion about the Design Program, Erin indicated that information about the projects and the design programs are always available on the websites. She also directed PAT members to Joelle for any informational needs. While Joelle is able to respond to informational requests, Tim is the main contact for PAT members who to discuss specific aspects of the project.
- Staff and PAT members had a general discussion about the amount of input the PAT will have. Some members expressed frustration that they were not able to have more influence over the design of the entire project. Staff explained that the Design Program, and necessary decisions made early in the process (including the site schematic, which was designed by ARC Architects, presented at a public

meeting and approved by the Library Board and the Parks Board) means that some of the parameters of the project are already set in place. Staff explained that within those guidelines, is where the PAT will have the most influence.

- Erin said that the architects will consider consensus comments and “minority reports” from the PAT meetings. She said the Design Program is a skeleton upon which the community center and park are built. It’s a starting place. If the PAT feels that Parks and Miller-Hull are headed in the wrong direction, then the PAT should let staff know. After the last community center levy, Parks went back and looked at what worked and what didn’t. Staff got together as a team and reviewed the processes. The spaces outlined in the documents presented to the Project Advisory Team are recommended, not set in stone.
- Some of the major issues that PAT members brought attention to include:
 - At least one shower
 - A centrally located reception area
 - Concern over the fact that there are two entries to the community center
 - A desire to flip offices from the back of the building to the front in order to allow those in the fitness area to enjoy the scenery of trees at the back of the lot
 - Larger fitness room, possibly doing away with one of the quiet meeting rooms to increase the size of the fitness room
 - A desire for an adequately large kitchen
 - Availability of computers at both the Library and Community Center
 - Good site lines from the reception area so Community Center staff can keep an eye on activities within the facility
 - A desire to keep the game room and teen room separate since they have essentially different functions
 - A desire to make the facility a place where young adults felt welcome and comfortable
 - A good amount of storage for both the gym and the kitchen. There was a suggestion to make maximum use of the grade by building in some underground storage for the gym.
 - Creation of flexible spaces
 - Incorporation of an area where flyers, brochures and other informational materials could be displayed

- A desire to have computer outlets in every room
- Several PAT members liked the idea of incorporating a stage into the community center so that there would be an opportunity for people of different ethnicities to celebrate their cultures.
- There was a general discussion about the potential of moving the buildings toward the street a bit in order to allow for one-way traffic around the back of the site, with entrance off of 105th Street. Erin indicated that this option had been looked into, but that with the tight space and extra expense of building an access road from 105th to the site proved to be prohibitively expensive for the project.

8:39 p.m. Site Plan

- Tim brought a copy of the basic site plan, as designed by ARC and approved by the Library Board and Parks Board, and explained that the latest schematic drawing made the parking lot smaller and moved it further north, creating more space for the park.
- At least one member of the PAT felt that a pick-up and drop-off area in front of the community center on 5th Avenue, not inside the site, is essential. The feeling is that it would be a serious omission and a planning failure that would pose inconveniences for the community in the future.
- Parks staff indicated that on-street parking/drop-off issues could and would be addressed by the Seattle Department of Transportation in their 5th Avenue Streetscape Plan.
- There was a general discussion about the sharing of parking areas with Northgate Mall. Some PAT members wanted to look into the possibility of having community center parking at the mall and then building a pedestrian overpass. Staff indicated that this had been discussed and the feasibility of it studied, resulting in a Parks and Library dropping the proposal due to the expense. Other PAT members wanted to ensure that during the Christmas season, mall shoppers wouldn't use the community center parking lot. A potential fix for this problem could be to allow only two- to three-hour parking at the community center, Maureen suggested.
- PAT members indicated that they would like the focus of the community center and park to be on opportunities for activity-type events. The idea to incorporate a stage into the building again was expressed.

9:10 p.m. Upcoming Tasks

- Tim reviewed the meeting schedule. There will be more PAT meetings on Sept. 29, 2003; Nov. 3, 2003; Jan. 26, 2004; and Feb. 16, 2004. The PAT has the choice to decide if they want to hold more meetings than the ones Tim suggested. Also, there will also be a public meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2003 and a Design Commission meeting on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2003.
- Tim indicated that the team members would each receive a copy of the 60% schematic drawings before the next meeting.

9:20 Final Meeting Wrap-up

- Tim thanked Jan for her comments and then mentioned that at the beginning of the next meeting there would be time built in to discuss Joel's e-mail from 9/17/03.

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